



DATE: November 16, 1981

TO: Division File

FROM: Charles Gebien

SUBJECT: L03100000 - Cook County - Chicago Heights/Alco Spring Co.
(C-82-100N)

On the afternoon of Friday, November 13, 1981, I visited the subject facility to investigate the attached complaint (#C-82-100N).

Upon my arrival, I met with Vito Grucdis, Vice President of Manufacturing, and Joe Maioraro, Supt. of Maintenance. They accompanied me to the rear of the plant and later showed me their spring manufacturing operation inside of the plant.

While in the rear of the plant, I observed an area as described in the attached site sketch. My attention was particularly drawn to a pile of approximately 100 empty 55 gallon drums which were stacked on their sides (open head type). Mr. Grucdis told me that these drums once held virgin oil, which is used in the spring making process. He further mentioned that no special or hazardous wastes are generated at the plant. I also observed an area of landfilling immediately west of the rear gate. Fill consisting of concrete, empty drums, pallets and metal scale was exposed along the fill face. The area being filled contains standing water and trees. It is approximately 20-25 feet below the grade on which the plant is situated. According to Mr. Grucdis this property is owned by Alco Spring Co.

After speaking with Ken Bechely and Mary Drake about this companies landfilling activity as it relates to the Illinois Environmental Protection Act, I understand that a DLPC operating permit is required. This facility has none. Even if the facility did have such a permit, the operator would be in violation of Chapter 7 in that; refuse is not being property covered, refuse is being dumped from the top of the fill face, and refuse is dumped directly into standing water. In addition, this landfilling activity is possibly causing a water pollution problem as described in the complaint.

After returning to the Maywood Office, I reviewed the D.W.P.C. file for possible information regarding this site. I found the attached inspection report from Larry Lai accounting his inspection of Nov. 19, 1980. In this report, he cited this dumping activity as potential source of water pollution in Thorn Creek. He further mentioned that 100-120 drums of waste quench oil and metal scale were stored on site in drums. These drums are in the same location as the approximately 100 empty drums that I observed.

EPA Region 5 Records Ctr.



283376

Page 2

I will return to the site on Thursday, Nov. 19, 1981, with Don Klopke and Chris Kallis of the D.W.P.C. and attempt to accomplish the following:

- Inform the Alco Spring Company to stop landfilling activity until they receive an operating permit.
- Inquire into the whereabouts of the 100-120 drums of waste quench oil which were observed by Larry Lai.
- Collect samples upstream and downstream from the Alco plant, to determine if the landfilling activity is creating a water pollution problem.
- Collect a sample of process waste from the fill face to determine if it is hazardous.
- Collect a water sample from the ponded water at the fill face.

CMG:pgb

cc: Northern Region

RECEIVED

OCT 05 1983

E.P.A. — D.W.P.C.
STATE OF ILLINOIS